Programs & Services Committee Agenda

City of Newton
In City Council

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

7 PM
Room 207 / City Council Chambers

The Programs & Services Committee will hold this meeting as a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 7 PM that the public may access in-person or virtually via Zoom. To attend this meeting via Zoom use this link: https://newtonma-gov.zoom.us/j/83665055703 or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 836 6505 5703.

Items Scheduled for Discussion:

#50-26 **Develop new resident welcome packet with information on city opportunities**
COUNCILOR ALBRIGHT requesting a discussion and possible ordinance requiring the Mayor's office or other appropriate division or department to create a "Welcome to Newton" information packet for new residents moving into Newton to provide information about the non-profit (i.e. New Art Center, Green Newton, Historic Newton, etc.) and governmental (i.e. all the boards and commissions as well as elective jobs) opportunities to become involved with the Newton community. It should be referenced in the Mayor's newsletter and available in the library and locations such as CVS and Walgreens.

#54-26 **Requesting update on leaf-blower landscaper registration and enforcement ordinance**
COUNCILORS BAKER, MALAIKE, FARRELL, WRIGHT, AND GREENBERG requesting a discussion with the Commissioner of Inspectional Services and the Chief of Police, responsible members of their Departments as to the progress in securing compliance with the leaf-blower provisions of Newton's noise ordinance requiring landscaper registration and lawful operation of noise-compliant equipment, including the reporting and enforcement work by those Departments. (180 days: 07/19/2026)

The location of this meeting is accessible, and reasonable accommodation will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA Coordinator at least two business days in advance of the meeting: ADACoordinator@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711

#77-26 **Review of Newton City Charter**
COUNCILORS KRINTZMAN, LUCAS, BLOCK, SILBER, ALBRIGHT, FARRELL, KALIS, ROCHE, DAHMUBED, GOLDEN, and BIXBY requesting discussion and review of the Newton City Charter that should include an evaluation of the structure, composition, role and duties of Newton's City Council and School Committee. The review should also include any other component of the Newton City Charter deemed appropriate. The review should be presented to the Newton City Council for its consideration (180 days: 08/17/2026).
Held 8-0 on 03/04/26
Held 7-0 on 04/08/26

#195-26 **Resolution Declaring the City of Newton's Support for Newton's Transgender, Gender Diverse, and LGBTQIA+ Community**
COUNCILOR DAHMUBED, HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, COUNCILORS OLIVER, ROCHE, GREENBERG, KELLEY, KRINTZMAN, ALBRIGHT, BIXBY, IRISH, KALIS, and GORDON requesting a resolution in support of the city's transgender, gender diverse, and LGBTQIA+ community. (180 Days: 11/28/2026)

Respectfully Submitted,
Josh Krintzman, Chair

ARTICLE 7.

PLANNING

~~Sec.~~SECTION 7-1. Department of Planning and Development.

~~There shall be a Department of Planning and Development.~~

~~Sec.~~There shall be a department of planning and development and a planning and development board. The membership and term of office of the planning and development board shall be determined by ordinance. The mayor shall appoint the members of the board subject to council confirmation as provided in section 3-3(a).

SECTION 7-2. Comprehensive Plan.

(a) Content—There shall be a comprehensive plan ~~setting forth in graphic and textual form policies to govern the future physical development of the entire city.~~ The containing the plan ~~shall cover the entire city and all of its functions and services or shall consist of a combination~~elements described in section 81D of ~~plans governing specific functions and~~chapter 41 of the General Laws; provided however, that the city may also undertake planning activities relating to particular services or specific geographic areas. within the city.

(b) Adoption— Within 2 years of the swearing in of a new mayor, the mayor shall submit to the city council reaffirmation of the comprehensive plan or a modification of the plan, including the recommendations of the planning and development board, for the city council's approval with or without amendments.

The mayor may submit to the city council a new comprehensive plan or modifications to the comprehensive plan as the mayor deems necessary.

Upon receipt ~~from the mayor~~ of a proposed new comprehensive plan, or a proposed modification of the ~~existing plan, the city council shall refer the proposal to the planning and development board which shall, within a time specified by the city council, report its recommendations on the proposal. After receipt of~~comprehensive plan, and the recommendations of the planning and development board, the city council shall hold ~~a~~at least 1 public hearing on the proposed ~~comprehensive plan or the proposed~~ modification ~~of the~~or new comprehensive plan and shall, by resolution, adopt the ~~same~~new comprehensive plan or modification of the comprehensive plan with or without amendments. ~~The city council may thereafter from time to time modify the comprehensive plan.~~

(c) Effect—The ordinances of the city, including but not limited to, the zoning ordinances, shall be not inconsistent with the comprehensive plan ~~shall serve as a guide to all future action by the city council concerning land use and development regulations, urban renewal programs and expenditures for capital improvements.~~.

~~Sec.~~

SECTION 7-3. Implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

(a) Land Use and Development Regulations —In accordance with the General Laws, the city council may by ordinance adopt land use and development regulations including, but not limited to, an official map and zoning regulations. reflecting the intent of the city's comprehensive plan.

(b) ~~Urban Renewal—In accordance with the General Laws, the city council may by ordinance provide for redevelopment, rehabilitation, conservation and renewal programs for the alleviation or prevention of slums, obsolescence, blight or other conditions or deterioration.~~

~~(c)~~ Action by the City Council~~—Before acting on~~ and the Planning and Development Board — If any proposed ordinance~~ concerning land use and development regulations, urban renewal or expenditures for capital improvements, where the ordinance~~ involves a matter ~~covered by~~addressed in the comprehensive plan concerning land use, development regulations, or capital improvement expenditures, the city council shall first refer the ~~proposal~~ proposed ordinance to the planning and development board~~ which~~. The board shall~~, within a time specified by the city council and prior to the public hearing on the proposed ordinance,~~ report ~~in writing~~ its recommendations ~~on the proposal. Upon adopting any such ordinance, the city council shall make findings and report on the relationship between the ordinance and the comprehensive plan and the comprehensive plan shall be deemed to be amended in accordance with the findings and report.~~in writing to the city council on the proposed ordinance in accordance with section 5 of chapter 40A of the General Laws.

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY OF NEWTON'S SUPPORT FOR NEWTON'S TRANSGENDER, GENDER DIVERSE, AND LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY

By this Resolution, the City Council and the Mayor of Newton affirm the City's commitment to transgender rights and equal protections for transgender and gender diverse community members.

WHEREAS, the City of Newton is committed to the safety, dignity, and equal treatment of all residents, including members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and transgender and gender-diverse people and their families; and

WHEREAS, as a result of other states enacting Anti-Transgender and Anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation, individuals and families are relocating to Massachusetts, which is more accepting and protective of individuals receiving gender affirming care, and the City of Newton has a responsibility to ensure these new residents are welcomed; and

WHEREAS, transgender and gender-diverse individuals, particularly young people, face disproportionate risks of harassment, discrimination, denial of lifesaving care, and mental health distress; and

WHEREAS, Newton's 2025 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Social Emotional Learning (SEL), & Mental Health Overview identified that transgender and gender diverse students, students who are LGBTQIA+, and students with disabilities reported higher levels of bullying than their peers. This included 7% of surveyed high school students and 5% of surveyed middle school students who reported being treated badly or unfairly because of their gender identity, and 6% of surveyed high school students and 3% of surveyed middle school students who reported being treated badly or unfairly because of their sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, approximately 23% of surveyed high school students and 12% of surveyed middle school students identified as LGBTQIA+, and

WHEREAS, gender-affirming care is recognized as medically necessary and appropriate by the American Medical Association (AMA), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Psychological Association (APA), and other leading medical and mental health organizations; and

WHEREAS, the AMA, AAP, and APA oppose any laws or regulations that discriminate against transgender and gender-diverse individuals, or that interfere in the doctor-patient relationship; and

WHEREAS, state and federal legislators have introduced legislation to criminalize or penalize the provision of, or the receipt of, gender-affirming medical care, causing fear, instability, and psychological harm to individuals seeking or providing gender affirming care; and

WHEREAS, under Chapter 12, Section 11½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, access to gender-affirming health care services is a right secured by the Massachusetts Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed Chapter 127 of the Act of 2022 and Chapter 16 of the Acts of 2025, commonly referred to as the "Shield Law" and "Shield Law 2.0", respectively, which are designed to safeguard access to reproductive and gender affirming health care in the state and which offer protections from out-of-state legal actions targeting patients, providers, and families; and

WHEREAS, healthcare professionals providing gender-affirming healthcare and persons seeking or receiving care, or assisting another individual who is seeking or receiving care, within the City of Newton should be protected from attempts to impose criminal punishment, civil liability, administrative penalties, or professional sanctions based on the laws of other states, when such gender-affirming healthcare is lawful in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and meets standards for good professional practice; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newton is a welcoming city that provides safe and equal access to transgender, gender diverse, and LGBTQIA+ individuals at its public facilities and accommodations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newton has long derived strength from its diverse community, including transgender, gender-diverse, and LGBTQIA+ residents and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWTON, the City of Newton reaffirms its commitment to fair treatment for all and recognizes that protecting LGBTQIA+, transgender, and gender-diverse individuals from discriminatory enforcement actions advances public safety and community trust; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Newton affirms that gender-affirming medical care is a matter of personal health and family decision-making between patients, caregivers, and licensed healthcare providers, consistent with established medical standards of care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Newton further affirms that LGBTQIA+, transgender, and gender-diverse residents deserve safety, stability, and dignity, and that protecting vulnerable populations strengthens public safety and community trust.